



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**GAILANNE M. CARIDDI**  
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Committees:  
Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture  
Municipalities and Regional Government

July 26, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
445 12th St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As a small business owner, I understand the challenges Main Street firms face each day: meeting payroll in a difficult economy; providing workers with good benefits in the face of rapidly increasing health care costs; and competing with larger companies in a global marketplace.

As a representative of Massachusetts' First Berkshire District, I have made helping small businesses in my rural region, especially those in our arts and agricultural sectors, my priority. Creating the right environment for these companies to grow benefits not only their own bottom lines, but the community, as well, by strengthening the state and local tax base.

One of the keys to helping these firms succeed is increased access to new technologies. Larger companies generally already enjoy this access, especially businesses in urban areas, but small businesses do not, and as a result, they are at a clear disadvantage. I believe the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile (WT Docket No. 11-65) would help bridge this gap between those with high-speed wireless access and those without.

Under the terms of this merger agreement, AT&T has committed to an infrastructure investment of more than \$8 billion over seven years in its deployment of a 4G LTE wireless broadband network. This expanded infrastructure would allow AT&T to provide coverage to 55 million more Americans than planned - many of them independent small business owners, inventors, farmers and artists who would be able to connect with suppliers, customers and collaborators from the convenience of their homes or offices.

Quite simply, I believe the joining of these two companies could result in an unleashing of innovation by some of Massachusetts' most creative entrepreneurs. The products of their genius would be positive for our state and country, which is why I urge you to rapidly approve the AT&T /T-Mobile merger.

Sincerely,

*Gail Cariddi*

Gail Cariddi  
Representative, First Berkshire District  
Massachusetts House of Representatives

CC:  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn